

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1           1. A method of enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with an operation  
2        in a meta directory server, said operation requiring communication with at least two data  
3        sources, said method comprising:

4           providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring  
5        communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks  
6        containing an extension point;

7           receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said extension  
8        point; and

9           executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of  
10      said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are provided by a  
2        designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is different from  
3        said user.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein said custom task contains an another  
2        extension point, said method further comprises receiving from said user data indicating an  
3        another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during  
4        execution of said custom task.

1           4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
2        determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of said plurality

3 of built-in tasks;  
4 displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one  
5 of said plurality of built-in tasks;  
6 displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and  
7 enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point,  
8 and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling said user to specify that said  
2 custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom task is executed in a  
3 synchronous manner.

1 6. The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling said user to specify that said  
2 custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom task is executed in a  
3 asynchronous manner.

1 7. The method of claim 3, wherein said operation comprises either a synchronization  
2 operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in tasks implement  
3 either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of said two data sources comprises a  
2 relational database.

1 9. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an utility to indicate that a

2 specific one of said extension points is reached.

1           10. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an utility in each of said  
2 plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility indicates extension points  
3 available in a corresponding task.

1           11. A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for  
2 causing a meta directory server to enable a user to customize a work flow associated with an  
3 operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, wherein  
4 execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained  
5 in said meta directory server causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:

6           providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring  
7 communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks  
8 containing an extension point;

9           receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said extension  
10 point; and

11           executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of  
12 said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1           12. The meta directory server of claim 11, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are  
2 provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is  
3 different from said user.

1           13. The meta directory server of claim 11, wherein said custom task contains an  
2 another extension point, further comprises receiving from said user data indicating an another  
3 custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during execution  
4 of said custom task.

1           14. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising:  
2           determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of said plurality  
3 of built-in tasks;  
4           displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one  
5 of said plurality of built-in tasks;  
6           displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and  
7           enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point,  
8 and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1           15. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising enabling said user to  
2 specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom task is  
3 executed in a synchronous manner.

1           16. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising enabling said user to  
2 specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom task is  
3 executed in a asynchronous manner.

1           17. The meta directory server of claim 13, wherein said operation comprises either

2 a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in  
3 tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1 18. The meta directory server of claim 17, wherein at least one of said two data  
2 sources comprises a relational database.

1 19. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising providing an utility to  
2 indicate that a specific one of said extension points is reached.

1 20. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising providing an utility in  
2 each of said plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility indicates  
3 extension points available in a corresponding task.

1 21. A meta directory server enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with  
2 an operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, said  
3 meta directory server comprising:

4 means for providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring  
5 communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks  
6 containing an extension point;

7 means for receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said  
8 extension point; and

9 means for executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during  
10 execution of said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1           22. The meta directory server of claim 21, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are  
2           provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is  
3           different from said user.

1           23. The meta directory server of claim 21, wherein said custom task contains an  
2           another extension point, further comprises means for receiving from said user data indicating  
3           an another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during  
4           execution of said custom task.

1           24. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising:  
2           means for determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of  
3           said plurality of built-in tasks;  
4           means for displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a  
5           corresponding one of said plurality of built-in tasks;  
6           means for displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and  
7           means for enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said  
8           extension point, and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1           25. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising means for enabling said  
2           user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom  
3           task is executed in a synchronous manner.

1           26. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising means for enabling said  
2       user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom  
3       task is executed in a asynchronous manner.

1           27. The meta directory server of claim 23, wherein said operation comprises either  
2       a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in  
3       tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1           28. The meta directory server of claim 27, wherein at least one of said two data  
2       sources comprises a relational database.

1           29. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising an utility means to  
2       indicate that a specific one of said extension points is reached.

1           30. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising an utility means in each  
2       of said plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility means indicates  
3       extension points available in a corresponding task.

1           31. A meta directory server enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with  
2       an operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, said  
3       meta directory server comprising:

4           a task registry block storing data related to a plurality of built-in tasks to implement  
5       said operation requiring communication with said two data sources, at least one of said

6       plurality of built-in tasks containing an extension point;  
7            a user interface module receiving from said user, data indicating a custom task  
8        associated with said extension point; and  
9            work-flow manager module for executing said custom task when said extension point  
10      is reached during execution of said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1           32. The meta directory server of claim 31, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are  
2        provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is  
3        different from said user.

1           33. The meta directory server of claim 31, wherein said custom task contains an  
2        another extension point, wherein said user interface further receives data indicating an  
3        another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during  
4        execution of said custom task.

1           34. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface modules  
2        displays each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one of said  
3        plurality of built-in tasks, and enables said user to specify said custom task associated with  
4        said extension point and said another custom task associated with said another extension  
5        point.

1           35. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface enables said  
2        user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom

3 task is executed in a synchronous manner.

1 36. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface enables said  
2 user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom  
3 task is executed in a asynchronous manner.